necessary steps to safeguard India's security and national interest.

Area Occupied by China

2493. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total area of India, in square kilometres, illegally occupied by China, State-wise and Sector-wise;

(b) whether Minsar village of Ladakh in Jammu and Kashmir, with sizeable population, is situated well inside Western Tibet, on the Northern or North-west side of the holy Kailash Parvat;

(c) if so, whether Government have raised the issue of Minsar village with their Chinese counterparts in their several rounds of talks held in the past; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERWANI): (a) The area under occupation by China in Jammu & Kashmir is approximately 38,000 sq. kms. In addition, under the so-called Sino-Pakistan boundary agreement of 1963, Pakistan illegally ceded approximately 5,120 sq. kms. of Indian territory in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir to China.

(b) and (c) During the India-China officials level talks on the Boundary question in 1960, Minsar village was referred to by the two sides. The location of this village was then described being approximately 200 kms. from Ladakh and on the route to Mansarovar.

(d) Does not arise.

Arrangements for Indian Community in Hong Kong

2494. SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have assessed the Indian population, particularly Gujarati community, in Hong Kong;

(b) whether there is restlessness on the part of Indian community there, after handing over of Hong Kong to Chinese Government on 1st July, 1997; and

(c) if so, what arrangements Government have made for the Indian community, in consultation with the Chinese Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERWANI): According to the information available with the Government, there are approximately 28,000 persons of Indian origin resident in Hong Kong, of which about 22,000 are Indian passport holders; the remaining hold British or third country documents. According to the information available with the Consulate General of India, Hong Kong, there are approximately 1000 person, of Gujarati origin in Hong Kong of whom about 600 are permanent residents.

(b) and (c) Government has not come across reports of any particular sense of restlessness in the Indian community in Hong Kong following the resumption of sovereignty by China July 1, 1997.

The Chinese and the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) authorities have expressed appreciation of the contribution of the Indian community to Hong Kong's economic development and its social and cultural life. The Chief Executive Officer of the HKSAR, Mr. Tung Chee-Hwa, has assured Government that the Indian community would continue to be welcome in Hong Kong.

Sino-Indian Protests against US Violation of CTBT

2495. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention was drawn to the Chinese protest against

violation of CTBT by the United States, by what is called the sub-critical N-test conducted recently; if so, the terms of their protest; and

(b) whether Government have also protested against the US sub-critical Test; if so, in what terms and the US reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA): (a) Yes, Sir. China has noted that it is closely watching the US decision to conduct a series of underground tests. It also stressed that all countries should faithfully abide by stipulations in the nuclear test ban treaty.

(b)In a press statement on July 5, 1997, Government took note of the "sub-critical" test conducted by the United States on July 2, 1997 and expressed concern that the sub-critical nuclear test has been justified "as an activity permitted under the CTBT". India has been consistently pointing out that the CTBT in its present form contains loop-holes and without being placed in the context of a phased programme for global nuclear disarmament serves only a discriminatory non-proliferation intent rather than the urgent goal of global nuclear disarmament. The US Administration has not reached to India's statement.

Proposal to Accept LOC as International Boundary

2496. SHRI SHIV CHARAN SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering any proposal to accept LOC as International boundary along Pakistan India border on the North-West; and

(b) if so, its logic and justification?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERWANI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Facilities to stranded Afghan Sikh Families

2497. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that about 200 Afghan Sikh families are stranded in Peshawar for the last three months, after fleeing from war-torn Afghanistan;

(b) if so, whether any facilities have been provided, on humanitarian grounds, to these stranded families by Indian High Commission in Pakistan;

(c) whether Government have initiated any action for their repatriation to India; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERWANI): (a) to (d) Our High Commission in Islamabad is not aware of 200 Sikh families stranded in Peshawar, Pakistan. However, 205 Afghan Sikhs of whtch 175 are currently staying in Jalalabad, Afghhanistan and remaining in Pakistan requested for grant of visa to visit India. All these requests, barring eight which are still under process, have been cleared for issue of visa. 15 persons have have obtained their visas so far. The remaining 182 persons will be issued visas, on application, by the Indian High Commission in Islamabad.

श्रीलंका सरकार के व्यक्तियों द्वारा भारतीय नाविकों की हत्या किया जाना

2498. **श्री राघवजी** : क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि पिछले कुछ महीनों में श्रीलंका सरकार के व्यक्तियों द्वारा बहुत से भारतीय मछुआरे और नाविक मारे गए हैं ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो गत 1 अप्रैल, 1996 से ऐसे कितने लोग मारे गए हैं और कितने घायल हुए हैं; और